

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of 23 December 2003, for the timely allowance of claims 11-15, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9, 10, 25, 26 and 27. Claims 1, 17, and 28 have been amended; claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice to consideration in a continuing application; and claims 33-48 have been added. A check in the amount of claim fees for an additional 14 claims, with three being of independent form, is enclosed herewith.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claims 1-8, 17, 18, 20-24, 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,414,400 to Scott (the "Scott reference"). With regard to the rejection of independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Scott reference fails to disclose, teach, and/or suggest a gaseous fuel. During the telephonic interview, there appeared to be some concern that this terminology alone did not clearly distinguish from gasoline or other fuel types. As discussed during the telephonic interview, to clarify the meaning of "gaseous fuel" as opposed to gasoline or other fuel types, claim 1 has been amended to recite that "the gaseous fuel includes at least one of natural gas, propane, and petroleum gas." Accordingly, it is believed claim 1 is in condition for allowance. For at least the same reasons, it is believed the rejected dependent claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance.

It was further indicated that the subject matter of dependent claim 10 would be allowable if combined with the subject matter of original claim 1. New independent claim 33 combines subject matter from original claims 1 and 10. New claims 34-37 depend from claim 33 and are

based on original dependent claims for claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed claims 33-37 are in condition for allowance.

It was likewise indicated that the subject matter of any of claims 25-27 would be allowable if combined with the corresponding base claim 17. Selected subject matter from original claims 17 and 25 has been combined in claim 17 as amended. Consistent with this amendment, claim 25 has been cancelled. Selected subject matter from original claims 17 and 26 has been combined in new independent claim 38, and corresponding new dependent claims 39-43 are based on the subject matter of original claims depending from claim 17. Selected subject matter from original claims 17 and 27 has been combined in new independent claim 44, and corresponding new dependent claims 45-48 are based on the subject matter of original claims depending from claim 17. Accordingly, it is believed claims 17-24, 26, 27, and 38-48 are in condition for allowance.

As explained during the interview, the subject matter of dependent claim 27, including pressurizing an air/fuel mixture with a compressor driven by a turbine, does not appear to be disclosed, taught, and/or suggested in the Scott reference. Independent claim 28, which is an apparatus claim with means clauses based on the content of method claim 17, has been amended to include the claim 27 subject matter, and is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, the features of rejected independent claim 29 include "pressurizing a mixture of fuel and air with a compressor, the compressor being driven with a turbine turned by exhaust from the engine" as originally recited therein. As discussed during the interview, among the reasons it is believed that claim 29 is in condition for allowance are at least those reasons supporting the allowability of such features in claim 27, as indicated in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1-15 and 17-24, and 26-48 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. Timely action towards a notice of allowability is hereby solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to address any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Scott Paynter', written over a horizontal line.

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